

operated for the people's benefit, and should never be made a place for personal aggrandizement by any part of the medical or surgical profession.

Southern California Medical Association (as reported by Dr. Michael Creamer)—The sixty-fifth regular semi-annual meeting of the Southern California Medical Association was held in Los Angeles, Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th. Members were in attendance from all of the counties in the southern portion of the State.

Friday morning was devoted to clinics at the various hospitals, Saturday morning and the afternoon sessions being devoted to a scientific program given by our local men and members. Many excellent and unusual papers were given, followed by interesting discussion.

Dr. Alonzo Englebert Taylor, Director Food Research Institute, Stanford University, spoke on "The Practitioner's Conception of the Dietetics." Dr. Herbert McLean Evans, Professor of Anatomy, University of California, Berkeley, and Charles A. Kofoed, Professor of Zoology of the same University, gave the Saturday evening program. Dr. Evans' subject was "Interrelation between Menstruation and Ovulation." Dr. Kofoed spoke on "Protozoan Infections of the Human Digestive Tract." The evening sessions were much enjoyed by the members of the profession and such of the laity as were interested in these subjects. A vote of thanks was given by the society to these men for the excellence of their presentation.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Dr. William Duffield, Los Angeles, president; Dr. Robert Pollock, San Diego, first vice-president; Dr. Herbert A. Johnston, Anaheim, second vice-president; Dr. Egerton Crispin, Los Angeles, secretary-treasurer.

The spring meeting will be held in San Diego, April, 1922.

A joint meeting of the society with the Western branch of the National Urological Society and Urological Section, was held on November 17, at Normal Hill Center. The following program was given:

Vesical Neck Obstructions and Their Relief. Wilbur Parker, M.D.

A Modification of the Differential Functional Test with Phenolsulphonephthalein. Anders Peterson, M.D.

Some Experiences in the Pathology and Treatment of Impotence and the Sexual Neuroses in the Male. H. A. Rosenkranz, M.D.

Intermittent Albumen, Its Etiology and Treatment. Lantern Slides. Alexander H. Peacock, M.D.

Merced County Medical Society (as reported by Dr. Brett Davis, secretary)—The December meeting was held on the 8th with Drs. Fountain, Davis, Lilley, Mudd, Parker and Kohl present. Much of the time of the evening was taken up in a discussion of the fee schedule. Dr. C. W. Kohl presented a paper on "Lobelia, Its Characteristics and Uses in Medicine."

This being the annual meeting there was an election of officers, and the present officers were re-elected to serve during 1922.

During the fall there have been twelve cases of diphtheria with seven known carriers, and six cases of scarlet fever.

Criminal Abortion

Recent inquiries of and correspondence with the office of the State Secretary appear to indicate the advisability of reviewing briefly the situation regarding criminal abortion. Penal Code, Section 275, reads as follows:

"Every woman who solicits of any person any medicine, drug, or substance whatever and takes the same, or who submits to any operation, or to the use of any means whatever, with intent thereby to procure a miscarriage, unless the same is necessary to preserve her life, is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not less than one nor more than five years."

It is inspiring to read the Hippocratic oath which has been morally binding upon every physician of the world for more than 2000 years. The Principles of Medical Ethics, under which every ethical physician operates, also is quite specific and definite as to the proper attitude of the individual physician or organizations of physicians on this important question.

Honest boards of managers of hospitals, with the full support and co-operation of physicians' organizations, as well as hospital organizations, are safeguarding honesty and making these criminal procedures more and more difficult in an ever increasing number of hospitals.

Recently the State Board of Medical Examiners issued a statement on this subject that ought to be interesting and instructive to physicians. It is as follows:

"The commission of an abortion is a felony, and under the criminal statutes, all felonies are directly under the investigation and prosecution of local district attorneys.

The Medical Practice Act provides that the license of the individual may be revoked for the procuring or aiding or abetting or attempting or agreeing or offering to procure a criminal abortion. The legal technicalities involved in the determination of what constitutes 'proper evidence' under the criminal code makes it a most difficult problem for the Board of Medical Examiners to handle.

It is necessary to make the following showing:

1. A woman to testify that the alleged abortion was either attempted or committed on her.

2. It must be proven by substantiated evidence that said woman was pregnant at the time she visited the alleged abortionist.

3. It must be proven by corroboration of a third party that the alleged abortionist actually performed the abortion.

4. If a dying statement is taken of the individual alleged to be dying as a result of a criminal abortion, the code requires that a statement must be taken by a representative of the district attorney's office; the statement must open with the expression on the part of the testatrix that she is about to die or that she knows she is going to die, for without such a statement the courts will not admit in evidence a dying statement.

5. The penal code further provides that the individual who approaches another soliciting that an abortion be performed, is compounding a felony; i. e., is equally guilty with the individual who is alleged to have committed the abortion."